

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 PRS-01 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NEA-10 /070 W
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P R 281958Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3768
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1672

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SW, US
SUBJ: SWEDEN'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE THUNBORG CALLS ON
AMBASSADOR LEONARD TO DISCUSS AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REMARKS
ON RACISM IN SWEDEN

1. SWEDEN'S PERMREP THUNBORG, EVIDENTLY ON INSTRUCTIONS,
CALLED ON AMB LEONARD MORNING OF MAY 26 TO DISCUSS AMB
YOUNG'S REMARKS TO REPORTERS REGARDING RACISM IN SWEDEN.
THUNBORG CITED A RUETER'S REPORT DATED LONDON, MAY 25
ON THE SUBJECT. THUNBORG COULD NOT AGREE WITH YOUNG'S
QUOTED REMARK: "THE SWEDES ARE TERRIBLE RACISTS." NEITHER
DID THUNBORG, WHO SAID HE HAD VISITED ISRAEL OVER TWENTY
TIMES, CONCUR WITH YOUNG'S REPORTED VIEW THAT "THE ISRAELIS
LED THE WORLD IN TRYING ANALYTICALLY TO PUT A VARIETY OF
CULTURES TOGETHER." HE ADDED THAT SOME TEN PERCENT OF SWEDEN'S
POPULATION HAVE COME FROM ABROAD, AND NOTED THAT A GOOD
MANY BLACK PEOPLE FROM THE UNITED STATES ARE IN SWEDEN.
THUNBORG CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE MAY WELL BE
SWEDISH INDIVIDUALS HARBORING RACIST FEELINGS. HE SAID,
THOUGH, THAT SHOULD INCIDENTS OF DISCRIMINATION IN SWEDEN
BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF SWEDEN'S PRESS, THESE
MATTERS WOULD BE AIRED FULLY.

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2. LEONARD URGED THUNBORG TO CONSIDER YOUNG'S REPORTED
REMARKS ON SWEDEN IN THE FULL CONTEXT OF THE DISCUSSION
OF WHICH THEY FORMED A PART: I.E., THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF
CULTURAL AND RACIAL DIFFERENCE ALL OVER THE WORLD IN SOME
FORM. THUNBORG COMPREHENDED THIS.

3. THUNBORG INDICATED THAT SWEDEN WAS RAISING THIS QUESTION

WITH US ONLY IN NEW YORK. HE SAID IT SHOULD BE KEPT A
MATTER BETWEEN HIMSELF AND YOUNG. HE ASKED TO SEE YOUNG
NEXT WEEK.

4. THUNBORG, WHO HAD BEEN AT THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE, LAUDED
THE "FINE JOB" DONE THERE BY YOUNG.
LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 28-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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